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REPORT

FROM THE

COMMISSIONERS

FOR

TRADE *and* PLANTATIONS;

In Purſuance of

The ADDRESS of the Honourable

Houſe of Commons

TO HIS

MAJESTY,

Of the Fifth of *March* laſt,

To direct the ſaid Commiſſioners, during the Receſs of Parliament, to prepare a Scheme for the Regiſtring the Wool of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, to be laid before the Houſe the next Seſſion of PARLIAMENT.

Printed in the YEAR MDCCXLI.

REPORT

FROM THE

Commiſſioners for TRADE and PLANTATIONS, &c.

To the Honourable the Commons of Great Britain *in Parliament aſſembled.*

HIS MAJESTY having been pleaſed, in Conſequence of an Addreſs from this Houſe to his Majeſty of the Fifth of *March* laſt, to direct the Commiſſioners for Trade and Plantations, during the Receſs of Parliament, to prepare a Scheme for the Regiſtring the Wool of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, to be laid before this Houſe the next Seſſion of Parliament, we have prepared the following Scheme for that Purpoſe, and humbly lay the ſame before this Honourable Houſe.

I. That a certain Number of Gentlemen, Merchants, Traders, Manufacturers, and Exporters of Woolen Manufactures, be appointed with full Powers and Authorities to prevent the clandeſtine Exportation of Wool to foreign Parts, by eſtabliſhing a Regiſter of ſuch Quantities of Wool as are now remaining, or ſhall hereafter annually be ſhorn in *Great Britain*.

II. The Firſt Meeting of theſe Commiſſioners ſhall be held at on the Day of

III. The ſaid Commiſſioners ſhall at their Firſt Meeting, by Ballot, chuſe Eight Perſons out of their Number, to be the acting

acting Commiſſioners for the enſuing Year, who ſhall attend every Day, except *Sundays*, from the Hour of Ten in the Morning till Two in the Afternoon, for the Diſpatch of all Buſineſs relative to their Office; of which Number, Five to be a *Quorum*.

IV. That Four of the ſaid Eight Commiſſioners ſo choſen, ſhall go out at the Year's End, and Four new Commiſſioners be choſen by Ballot in their ſtead.

V. And at the End of the Second Year, the Four Eldeſt of the ſaid Eight Commiſſioners ſhall likewiſe go out, and Four new Commiſſioners be choſen in their ſtead.

VI. And in every ſucceeding Year, the like Rotation and Succeſſion ſhall be obſerved; and no one Commiſſioner ſhall be choſen into this Office twice, ſo long as there ſhall be any one Commiſſioner of the whole Body that ſhall not have ſerved once, unleſs ſuch Commiſſioner ſhall be out of the Kingdom, or ſhall voluntarily decline ſuch Election, or lie under any legal Incapacity.

VII. Which Succeſſion or Rotation being once completed, when the whole Number of Commiſſioners nominated ſhall have ſerved in this Office, they ſhall, for the future, annually ſucceed therein, according to the Courſe of the former Elections; that is to ſay, thoſe who were firſt choſen, ſhall be the firſt in Succeſſion.

VIII. That each acting Commiſſioner, during the Time he ſhall continue in his Office, ſhall receive ſuch annual Salary, as ſhall be thought proper.

IX. Upon the Death, or Removal out of the Kingdom, or upon any legal Incapacity of any acting Commiſſioner, another ſhall be choſen in his ſtead, by the whole Body of Commiſſioners then preſent, upon Thirty Days Notice given in the *Gazette* of ſuch Election.

X. And upon the Death, or Removal out of the Kingdom, of any Commiſſioner at large, One new Commiſſioner alſo ſhall be choſen in his ſtead, by the whole Body of the Commiſſioners, at the Time of their next annual Election for acting Commiſſioners.

XI. The acting Commiſſioners, or a *Quorum* of them, to conſiſt of Five, as aforeſaid, ſhall have full Power to execute all the Authorities granted by Act of Parliament, for carrying this Scheme into Execution.

XII. That they ſhall have a Secretary, Deputy Secretary, an Accountant-general, Deputy Accountant, Ten Clerks, One Door-keeper, and Two Meſſengers, Sixteen Superviſors, with Two Aſſiſtants for each Superviſor, One hundred and Fifty-ſeven Riding

Riding Officers, and One hundred other Officers, to be conſtantly ſtationed in the principal Ports and manufacturing Towns of the Kingdom, with reaſonable Salaries; who ſhall all, for the firſt Time, be choſen by Ballot, by the whole Body of Commiſſioners then preſent.

XIII. Such Officers, upon Death, or Removal, to be replaced from time to time, by the acting Commiſſioners.

XIV. Theſe Officers being once choſen, they ſhall be poſted and diſtributed to ſuch Places, as the Commiſſioners, for the Time being, ſhall judge moſt convenient for the Execution of their Truſt.

XV. It being computed, that there are about Seven hundred and Eighty-ſix Market Towns in the Kingdom of *Ireland* and Principality of *Wales*, and that One Riding Officer will be ſufficient for Five of them, who may be able to pay his Attendance at each of the ſaid Five Market Towns One Day or more in every Fortnight, if requiſite, to make Entries of the reſpective Quantities of Wool in each Perſon's Poſſeſſion, grant Permit, and do ſuch other Acts as to his Office may appertain.

XVI. And that One Superviſor may be ſufficient, with his Two Aſſiſtants, to inſpect the Conduct of Ten Riding Officers; which Aſſiſtants may alſo, in caſe of Need, be poſted from time to time, to ſupply the Want of, or to aſſiſt a Riding Officer within the Surveyor's Diſtrict, till Proviſion ſhall be made for that Purpoſe by the Commiſſioners.

XVII. That when theſe Officers ſhall be diſtributed and poſted in ſuch manner, as by the Commiſſioners ſhall be thought moſt convenient for the Service, Notice ſhall be given in every Pariſh Church, in each Riding Officer's Diſtrict, of the reſpective Days in every Fortnight, throughout the whole Year, when he will attend for the Execution of his Office, at the ſeveral Market Towns within his Diſtrict, which, as near as may be, ſhall be the uſual Market Days of ſuch Towns, that the Farmer may have as little Trouble as poſſible in making his Entries.

XVIII. Notice being thus given, every Perſon, under the Penalty of ſhall attend at ſome Market Town in his Neighbourhood, on the Day appointed for that Purpoſe, and there make an Entry with the ſaid Wool Officer, of the Wool then in his Poſſeſſion, who ſhall give him a Certificate thereof, in the following Terms, *viz.*

THESE are to certify, That A. B. *Farmer, Wool-ſtapler, Fellmonger*, &c. (as the Caſe ſhall happen) *dwelling at in the Pariſh of came this Day, and made Oath before me, That all the Wool, now in his Cuſtody, is kept in, or*

laid up in ſuch a Room or Loft, and doth amount to Weight, and no more.

XIX. And the ſaid Officer ſhall within Days, return a Duplicate of ſuch Certificate to the Commiſſioners appointed to prevent the clandeſtine Exportation of Wool, to their general Office in *London*, whereof diſtinct and proper Accounts ſhall be kept by the ſaid Commiſſioners Clerks, in Books prepared for that Purpoſe, under the Heads of the ſeveral Counties and Diſtricts allotted to the Care of their Officers, to ſerve as a Check upon the Accounts kept in the Country.

XX. And that from and after the making of ſuch Entries, no Perſon poſſeſſed of Wool, do remove the ſame, without a Permit firſt obtained from the Officer of the Diſtrict, for that Purpoſe.

XXI. That every Grower of Wool, within Days after he ſhall have ſhorn his Sheep, do in like manner, and under the Penalty aforeſaid, make an Entry, upon Oath, with the Wool Officer, of the Number of Sheep and Lambs by him depaſtured, Fleeces by him ſhorn, and of the Weight of the Wool therein contained, diſtinguiſhing the different Kinds; and do not remove any Part of the ſaid Wool, but by Permit, as aforeſaid.

XXII. That all Fell-mongers, or other Perſons, who ſever Wool from ſlaughtered Sheep, or Lambs Skins, ſhall likewiſe render an Account, upon Oath, every Six Weeks (or oftener, at the Pleaſure of the ſaid Fell-monger, *&c.*) to the Wool Officer, of all Skins they receive in, and of the Weight of Wool ſevered from them, diſtinguiſhing Shorlings from others; and that they do not remove the ſaid Wool, or any Part thereof, without a Permit, as aforeſaid.

XXIII. That no Perſon whatſoever be allowed to purchaſe Wool, exceeding the Weight of Pounds, without a Licence from the ſaid Commiſſioners, ſpecifying the Name and Place of Abode of the Perſon ſo authorized to purchaſe; nor ſhall ſuch Licences be granted, without ſufficient Security firſt given by the Perſon taking out the ſame, that he will not tranſport any Wool, or cauſe the ſame to be tranſported to Parts beyond the Seas, and that he will not remove any Wool from the Place where it ſhall have been lodged and entered, without a Permit for that Purpoſe.

XXIV. That ſuch Licences may be granted, and ſuch Security taken by the Commiſſioners at their General Office in *London*, or by any of their Officers in the Country, that the Wool-dealers may not be obliged to travel any great Diſtance for obtaining

taining the ſame; for which Licence and Security, the Sum of and no more, ſhall be paid.

XXV. That due Entries ſhall be made by the Commiſſioners, and their Officers, of ſuch Licences granted; and the Securities taken thereupon in the Country, ſhall be returned within Days to the General Office in *London*, there to be duly kept and regiſtred, that Proſecutions may be commenced thereupon, if neceſſary.

XXVI. That any Perſon furniſhed with ſuch Licence, may demand a Permit from the Wool Officer reſiding near the Place of Purchaſe, for carrying any Quantity of Wool by him purchaſed, either to his own Habitation, or to any other Place; and that the ſaid Wool Officer, upon granting ſuch Permit, ſhall make the Purchaſer Debtor and accountable to the Publick for that Quantity, and ſhall give him Two Permits of the ſame Date and Tenor; one to be by him delivered to the Perſon, of whom the ſaid Wool ſhall be purchaſed, with his Receipt on the Back thereof, for the Quantity purchaſed, which ſhall be a Voucher and Diſcharge for ſo much to the Seller in his Wool Account; and the remaining Permit ſhall be by ſuch Purchaſer delivered up to the Wool Officer, reſiding neareſt to the Place where the Wool ſhall be carried by virtue thereof, within Twenty-four Hours after the Arrival of the ſaid Wool; to the Intent that ſuch Officer may likewiſe make the Purchaſer Debtor in his Account for that Quantity of Wool, whereof he ſhall be diſcharged by Permits for Sale and Removal thereof, in like manner as the original Owner, and no otherwiſe.

XXVII. And the like Method ſhall be obſerved and followed, *toties quoties*, by every ſubſequent Purchaſer, till ſuch time as the Wool ſhall come into the Hands of ſome Manufacturer, who ſhall be made Debtor for the ſame, and be diſcharged thereof from time to time, by the Weight of Manufactures by him made, with a reaſonable Deduction for Loſs in cleaning, carding, ſpinning, weaving, and working up the ſame.

XXVIII. That all Wool, which ſhall from and after the Day of exceeding the Weight of Pounds, be removed without a Permit, ſhall be forfeited, and treble the Value thereof, together with the Horſes and Carriages, whereupon and wherewith the ſame ſhall be loaden or drawn, one Half thereof to his Majeſty, and the other Half to the Wool Officer, or any Officer concerned in the King's Revenue, who ſhall ſeize the ſame; and no Permit ſhall continue in Force, but for the Number of Days therein ſpecified, which ſhall be proportioned to the Length of the Way ſuch Wool is to travel.

XXIX. That

XXIX. That every Perſon dealing in Wool, ſhall once in every Year, or oftner, if requiſite, account with the Wool Officer for the Quantities of Wool by him grown, bought, or diſpoſed of, whereof he is to be diſcharged in the Manner aforeſaid, and no otherwiſe; that is to ſay, by Permits and Receipts on the Back thereof, or by Manufactures made out of the ſame; and whatever Quantity of Wool ſhall be found deficient in ſuch Grower, Dealer, or Manufacturer's Account, ſhall be looked upon as ſo much Wool clandeſtinely exported to Parts beyond the Seas; and ſuch Accountant ſhall forfeit treble the Value thereof; and if a licenſed Purchaſer, ſhall forfeit his Licence alſo, and ſhall not be permitted to take out a new one.

XXX. In all which Caſes however, reaſonable Allowances ſhall be made for Diminution in the Weight of Wool by Age, Loſs in cleaning or working the ſame up into Manufactures, Loſs by Fire, or any other unavoidable Accident, of which the Commiſſioners to be the ſole Judges.

XXXI. And the ſaid Commiſſioners ſhall be impowered to ſettle general Rules for the Allowances to be made to Wool-ſtaplers in the ſorting and cleaning of Wool, and to Woollen Manufacturers for the Loſs in working up the ſame, in the different Operations it ſhall go through, before it ſhall be wrought up into any complete Manufacture, proceeding therein according to the beſt and moſt authentick Accounts of what generally hath been the uſual Loſs or Waſte in the ſaid Operations; which Allowance being once ſettled, ſhall not be varied, but upon very ſufficient Reaſons given to the Satisfaction of the Commiſſioners for ſuch Variation.

XXXII. That all Wool removed out of the Place entered for its keeping, exceeding Pounds, ſhall be accounted Wool removed without a Permit, and be liable to the like Penalties; excepting always ſuch ſmall Quantities of Wool, not exceeding Pounds Weight, as aforeſaid, as ſhall have been ſold and delivered to poor Houſekeepers, to be by them wrought up into Hoſe, Wearing-apparel, or Houſhold Stuff, for the Uſe of their Families; and alſo ſuch Quantities, as ſhall be delivered from time to time by Manufacturers to their Combers, Spinners, *&c.* the ſaid Manufacturers being accountable for all Wool by them purchaſed, whereof they ſhall be from time to time diſcharged by the Weight of their Manufactures, with a reaſonable Diſcount for Loſs in working the ſame as aforeſaid.

XXXIII. And that a true Account may be kept, and a juſt Balance made, of all Stocks of Wool, and Species thereof, that ſhall be in the Cuſtody of any Perſons, who ſhall iſſue out of their Stocks ſmall Quantities, under the Weight of Pounds, ſuch Perſons ſhall from time to time, after the Day of

enter an Account of all ſuch ſmall Quantities of Wool, or Species thereof, into Books, which ſhall be provided them for that Purpoſe; which Entry or Entries ſhall be made in ſuch Books the ſame Day that the Goods ſhall be iſſued out of ſuch Stock, ſignifying the Quantity, the Time when, and to whom, with the Place of the Perſons Abode, to whom the ſame was delivered; which Books, ſo kept by ſuch Dealers or Manufacturers, who have Stocks of Wool, ſhall lie open in their Warehouſes to be peruſed by the Officers appointed to take Account of the ſame; and ſuch Books on the Day of annually, or within Six Days after, at fartheſt, ſhall be returned back to the Wool Officer, upon the Oath, or, in caſe of a known Quaker, upon his ſolemn Affirmation, made before ſuch Officer, who ſhall be impowered to adminiſter the ſame.

XXXIV. And if any Dealer or Manufacturer in Wool ſhall neglect or refuſe to keep ſuch Books, or to make ſuch Entries therein, or refuſe to permit the ſaid Officers to inſpect them, or not return ſuch Books according to the above Directions, or ſhall make any falſe Entries in ſuch Books, ſuch Dealer ſhall for every Offence forfeit the Sum of

XXXV. And to prevent Frauds in the Execution of this Scheme, it ſhall and may be lawful for any Wool Officer, in the Day-time, to enter into the Room, Loft, or Warehouſe, ſet apart and entered for keeping of Wool by any Perſons dealing in that Commodity, and to take an Account thereof, to ſee whether the ſame be correſpondent with the Entries made by ſuch Perſon; and if the ſame ſhall be found deficient in its Weight, ſuch Owner ſhall forfeit treble the Value thereof.

XXXVI. The like Penalty alſo in ſuch Caſes, where the Quantity of Wool ſhall exceed the Entry made thereof, that is to ſay, ſuch Exceeding ſhall be forfeited, and alſo thrice the Value.

XXXVII. And ſuch Dealer ſhall always have in his Houſe Weights and Scales, or Stilliards, ſufficient for weighing the Quantity of Wool in his Poſſeſſion, and ſhall be aſſiſting to the ſaid Officer in weighing the ſame; in Default or Refuſal whereof, he ſhall forfeit for every Offence the Sum of

XXXVIII. Such Officer ſhall alſo have Power, taking to his Aſſiſtance a Peace Officer, in the Day-time, upon Information given upon Oath before any Juſtice of the Peace, that there is Reaſon to believe or ſuſpect, that Wool is concealed in any Houſe, Chamber, Loft, or in any other Place not legally entered as aforeſaid, by virtue of a Warrant from ſuch Juſtice, to enter the ſame in the Day-time, to ſearch for ſuch Wool; and if any ſuch be found, the ſame ſhall be forfeited, and treble the Value thereof paid by the Perſon, in whoſe Houſe or Cuſtody the ſame ſhall be found.

XXXIX. All Perſons, obſtructing Officers in the Execution of their Duty, ſhall forfeit

XL. That no Wool ſhall be carried Coaſtwiſe, but by Veſſels regiſtred and licenſed for that Purpoſe by the Commiſſioners appointed for preventing the clandeſtine Exportation of Wool, who ſhall take ſufficient Security from the Maſter and Owners of ſuch Veſſel, that no Wool ſhall at any time be by them exported to Foreign Parts.

XLI. All ſuch Veſſels ſhall be *Engliſh* built, and navigated by the King's natural Subjects only.

XLII. And no Veſſel, though licenſed as aforeſaid, ſhall receive any Wool on Board, without a Permit from a Wool Officer for that Purpoſe, ſpecifying the particular Quantity and Quality of Wool to be laden on Board; and alſo the Name of the Place and Perſon, to whom and where the ſame is conſigned, who muſt be a Perſon licenſed to purchaſe Wool; whereupon the ſaid Maſter and Veſſel ſhall be made Debtor to the Publick for the Quantity of Wool contained in ſuch Permit, and ſhall not be diſcharged thereof, but in the manner hereafter mentioned.

XLIII. Neither ſhall the Captain of the ſaid Veſſel, nor any of his Mariners, deliver the ſaid Wool, or any Part thereof, but in the Preſence of a Wool Officer, nor to any other Perſon, but him, to whom the ſame is conſigned in the ſaid Permit, or his Agents or Servants, who ſhall produce and deliver to the ſaid Captain a Permit for purchaſing the ſame, together with a Receipt on the Back thereof, importing the Quantity of Wool ſo delivered; which Permit and Receipt ſhall be a Diſcharge to the Captain and Veſſel for the ſame, and the ſaid Purchaſer ſhall be accountable to the Publick for that Wool.

XLIV. That the Owner or Commander of ſuch Veſſel ſhall once in Months, or oftner, if required, account with ſome Wool Officer for the ſeveral Quantities of Wool by them received on Board, and delivered as aforeſaid, and ſhall be liable to the ſame Forfeitures and Penalties with all other Dealers in Wool; wherein Allowances ſhall be made for Loſſes by Tempeſt, Shipwreck, or Captures by the Enemy, upon ſufficient Proof made thereof to the Satisfaction of the Commiſſioners.

XLV. All Veſſels, not being ſo licenſed, or taking out ſuch Permit as aforeſaid, whereon above Pounds of Wool ſhall be found, ſhall be forfeited, together with their Tackle and Apparel, one Half to the Informer, the other Half to his Majeſty.

XLVI. And any Wool Officer, or any Officer of his Majeſty's Revenue, or any Captain of one of his Majeſty's Ships of War, are hereby impowered to make Seizure of ſuch Veſſel.

XLVII. That

XLVII. That if any Wool, or any Horſe, Carriage, or Veſſel, whereon the ſame ſhall be drawn or loaden, ſhall be ſeized for want of a legal Permit, or on account of an illegal Permit, or for any other Cauſe of Forfeiture, then and in ſuch Caſes the Proof thereof ſhall lie on the Owner or Claimer of ſuch Wool, Horſe, Carriage, or Veſſel, and not on the Officer or Officers, who ſhall ſeize and ſtop the ſame.

XLVIII. That all Fines, Forfeitures, and Penalties ariſing from this Scheme, be determined in a ſummary way, if within the Bills of Mortality, before the acting Commiſſioners, or in any other Place, before Two neighbouring Juſtices, whoſe Determination ſhall be final, except in the Caſe of Veſſels ſeized, where the Owner ſhall have the Liberty of appealing to the Court of *Exchequer*.

XLIX. The Powers, *&c.* in the Act of the Twelfth of his preſent Majeſty, relating to the regiſtring Ships, *&c.* and all other Acts now in Force for preventing the clandeſtine Exportation of Wool (except only in ſuch Parts thereof as ſhall be expreſly repealed by the Act for eſtabliſhing this Scheme) to continue in Force.

L. And if any Perſon ſhall, from and after the
take out any Permit or Permits for removing of Wool from one Place to another, and within the Time limited in ſuch Permits, the Party taking out the ſame ſhall not either actually ſend away the Wool mentioned in ſuch Permits, purſuant to the true Intent thereof; or, in Default of ſo ſending away ſuch Wool, ſhall not, before the Expiration of the Time limited by ſuch Permit or Permits reſpectively, return ſuch Permit or Permits to the Wool Officer, from whom the ſame were had, then and in ſuch Caſe reſpectively ſuch Perſon ſhall forfeit

LI. The Commiſſioners appointed to put this Scheme in Execution ſhall annually lay a full Account of their Proceedings before his Majeſty in Council, and alſo before both Houſes of Parliament, taking particular Notice therein of the Number of Sheep and Lambs depaſtured, and of the Weight of Wool ſhorn in every Year.

That this Scheme may be extended and accommodated to the particular Circumſtances of North Britain *and* Ireland, *with a proportionable Number of Officers to be appointed for the Execution thereof.*

All which is moſt humbly ſubmitted.

Whitehall,
Feb. 12. 1741-2.

Monſon
R. Plumer
Tho. Pelham
M. Bladen
Ja. Brudenell
B. Keene
R. Herbert.

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JUN